Pinus ponderosa / Oryzopsis asperifolia Woodland

COMMON NAME	Ponderosa Pine / Rough-Leaved Ricegrass Woodland
SYNONYM	Ponderosa Pine / Rough-Leaved Ricegrass Woodland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Woodland (II)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen woodland (II.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (II.A.4.N)
FORMATION	Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a.)
ALLIANCE	*Pinus ponderosa* Woodland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE
Globally
This community is described only in western South Dakota.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
This community is widespread and was found throughout the study area.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
Globally
This community has been found on flat to moderately sloping topography (2-24%) (Hoffman and Alexander 1987). The soils range from sandy loams to silt loams. This type is generally found on north aspects.

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This community occurs on gentle to moderate slopes (typically less than 20 degrees) with a variety of aspects in areas underlain by granite and schist.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Globally

Stratum	Species
Tree canopy	*Pinus ponderosa*
Short shrub	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Spiraea betulifolia, Symphoricarpos albus,*
Herbaceous	*Carex foenea, Danthonia spicata, Oryzopsis asperifolia, Schizachne purpurescens*

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Stratum	Species
Tree canopy	*Pinus ponderosa*
Subcanopy	*Pinus ponderosa*
Herbaceous	*Oryzopsis asperifolia*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES
Globally
Pinus ponderosa, Symphoricarpos albus, Oryzopsis asperifolia

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Pinus ponderosa, Oryzopsis asperifolia

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Globally
This community is dominated by *Pinus ponderosa* in the overstory and *Oryzopsis asperifolia* in the herbaceous layer. Shrubs are scattered but readily apparent, particularly *Spiraea betulifolia, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi,* and *Symphoricarpos albus. Carex foenea, Danthonia spicata, Galium boreale,* and *Schizachne purpurescens* are present in the herb layer. In the stands in the Black Hills on which this description is based, shrubs had 10% cover and herbaceous species 20-25% cover (Hoffman and Alexander 1987).

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This community is dominated by *Pinus ponderosa* in both the canopy and subcanopy. Coverage for each stratum typically ranges from 10 to 60%. A short shrub stratum usually is present, but species composition is variable. *Juniperus communis* and *Symphoricarpos albus* occur most consistently. Herbaceous cover typically is 10 to 25% but can be greater locally. A wide variety of species may be present. *Oryzopsis asperifolia* occurs consistently but is not abundant.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL002123

COMMENTS
Globally
Fire likely played an important role in the dynamics of this woodland type. Fire scars are apparent on may of the older trees.

The stands used to document the *Pinus ponderosa / Oryzopsis asperifolia* Habitat Type described by Hoffman and Alexander (1987) had very high basal area and densities for a woodland, possibly due to their sampling procedure. The dense structure may have affected the floristic makeup of the stands and made the list of dominant species a poor reflection of the community as a whole. This community is described on the basis of 4 stands in the Black Hills National Forest. This type was originally described as a phase of *Pinus ponderosa / Symphoricarpos albus* Habitat Type. More information needs to be collected on it to verify its diagnostic features and relationship to other communities.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
This community often occurs in mosaics with the *Pinus ponderosa / Juniperus communis* Woodland.

REFERENCES
Hoffman, G. R. and R. R. Alexander. 1987. Forest vegetation of the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota and Wyoming: A habitat type classification. Research Paper RM-276. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO. 48 p.

McAdams, A. G., D. A. Stutzman, and D. Faber-Langendoen. 1998. Black Hills Community Inventory, unpublished data. The Nature Conservancy, Midwest Regional Office, Minneapolis, MN.